(iv) the average extent of annual damages caused on either side of the river and the amount spent by the Government till now to redress their grievances;

(v) how long is it that the old bund on the southern side of the river has been in existence, and the special reasons that prompted the Government to abandon the same now, after spending a very large amount?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(i) Yes.

(ii) It is impossible to estimate the extent of damages caused with any degree of accuracy. All available information has been furnished in the answers given to questions 72, 92 and 236 of the legislative session of 1101, published on pages 189 269 and 622 of the printed proceedings.

(iii) Yes. There were several breaches in the northern and southern bunds, and they were all closed expeditiously. The most serious breach was at Mandarath *chira* near Arattupula and it was reconstructed in 1100.

(iv) Vide answer to sub-division (ii) above.

Rs. 24,620—15—10 was spent by the Government.

(v) There is no definite information as to how long the old bund has been in existence.

The Government are of opinion that the strengthening and raising of these bunds alone cannot solve the problem of floods in that locality. Such works may even aggravate the present situation. The scheme for draining the Muriyad lake is under investigation.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I refer to the last portion. Then, how was it that sanction was given to put up a bund at a cost of Rs. 31,000?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I cannot say. Past experience has taught us that like the bund, the Kurumali river will not save us, and it has taught us that such protective work does not help us much in solving this problem.

President.—In the Karuvannur river it is a different thing.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The Karuvannur river leaves the high ground at Urakam and enters low ground at Injamudi. If we don't protect the country at that place, there will be very great damage done at Urakam. Such a condition does not exist on the banks of the Kurumali.

Teak plantations in Malayattur.

165. Mr. O. R. Chummar.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

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(i) whether there is teak plantation over the whole of the Reserve area included in Survey Nos. 403, 404, 408, 411, 431 and 439 to 444;

(ii) how many acres of the above area is now lying waste, how many times trees have been planted, and why has the plantation failed;

(iii) the gross expenditure so far incurred in connection with the area shown above in sub-division (i), and what is the gross income so far derived;

(iv) what is the distance of the said plantation from the Malayattur Parish Church, and is any inconvenience or injury caused to the neighbouring villagers by wild animals from the said plantation;

(v) is the said reserve area suitable for cultivation;

(vi) will the Government be pleased to exclude the said area from the Reserve Forests and assign the same to the villagers?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—(i) Yes. It is presumed that the survey fields referred to are those in the Malayattur village.

(ii) No area is lying waste. Once in last year filling up of blanks over an extent of 11·67 acres in Survey Nos. 431, 443 and 444 was done during the planting season. The plantation has not failed. Over 60 per cent of the plants have come up well, and the failure of less than 40 per cent is due to bad weather.

(iii) No records are available to show the expenditure incurred on account of the planting which was attended to about 25 years ago. As for the filling up of blanks last year, it was done under the *Taungya* system, and hence no money had to be actually spent The gross income derived so far amounts to Rs. 1,726—8—0.

(iv) About 3 furlongs. No inconvenience or injury has yet come to notice.

(v) Yes.

(vi) Since the plantation is a thriving one containing a good number of trees of more than 25 years' growth, the Government do not consider it necessary to order its exclusion and assignment. Moreover, but for the protection afforded to the village by the plantation from the havoc of the floods of 1099 by bearing the brunt of the fast current, the whole of Malayattur would have been washed away.

Mr. O. R. Chummar.—Sub-division (2). They said "over 60 per cent of the plants". Is the failure in particular portions of the plantations or here and there, scattered all over it?

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Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—In different places, here and there.

Mr. O. R. Chummar.—The approximate area covered by that?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—40 per cent of the trees; and they were planted again last year filling up the blanks.

Mr. O. R. Chummar.— Was the remaining 60 per cent of the plantation very well?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—We have to wait and see whether they will come up well. Probably, some of them may die. The failure is due to bad weather.

Mr. O. R. Chummar.—How is it that some trees alone fade?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—The plants planted on rainy days will survive, and others will not.

Mr. O. R. Chummar.—How did this 60 per cent survive? Were they planted on rainy days?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—Yes.

President.—Suppose all the plants are planted on a non-rainy day; will all of them die?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—More than 50 per cent may. That depends upon the health of the plants.

President.—So that is the chief constituent factor.

Mr. O. R. Chummar.—Sub-division (b). Have the Government any objection to assign away the portion where the trees are failing?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—I already said it is here and there that they fail.

Mr. O.R. Chummar.—Those places may be suitable for cultivation.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—In the places where the plants fail, we plant again.

Mr. O. R. Chummar.—My question is, since they fail, why should we plant anew? Why not lease them out for cultivation?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—The plots are scattered all over the plantation.

Exclusions in Malayattur.

166. **Mr. O. R. Chummar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(i) how many acres of land have been excluded from the forest area in Malayattur village during the last two years;

(ii) of those, how many acres have been assigned;

(iii) what were the terms on which they were assigned;

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